

July 30, 2003

Ms. Lillian Bennett
Assistant to the County Administrator
Leon County
301 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Dear Ms. Bennett:

It has been a pleasure serving on the North Florida Fairground Community Advisory Committee. I applaud the efforts and leadership that both you and Mr. Gary Johnson have put into this project. As the Committee continues to move forward, the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County (EDC) is dedicated to the successful redevelopment of what is currently the North Florida Fairgrounds site. The EDC remains very interested and involved in economic development, particularly redevelopment opportunities, on the Southside.

At the last meeting I had the opportunity to briefly review the responses, from the three companies, to the RFP for the Fairgrounds Feasibility Study. I would like to recommend that once the consultant has been secured, a focus group of local developers and real estate professionals be assembled to provide insight based on their first-hand experiences and expertise in the Tallahassee/Leon County market. In the spirit of partnership, the EDC will commit to hosting a meeting between the consultant, representatives from the Fairground Community Advisory Committee, local developers and real estate professionals should this recommendation be accepted.

I believe that important synergies can result from this type of interaction. At the least, the consultant can gain a thorough view of the trends and influences characterizing the local economy.

Thank you for keeping the EDC engaged in the development of this project. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 850.224.8116 or via e-mail at rnixon@taledc.com.

Reb Nixon,

Vice-President of Business Development- Expansion/Retention

CC: Commissioner Tony Grippa, Chairman, Leon County Mayor John Marks, City of Tallahassee

